

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 121426Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9289

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1917

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR IT DA

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: DANISH AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT

1. HERewith IS REQUESTED BIO INFORMATION ON NEW DANISH
AMBASSADOR TO ITALY: WILLIAM FREDERIC MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT
WAS BORN JANUARY 24, 1921 IN AARHUS, JUTLAND, THE SON OF
A SHIP BROKER, CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT, AND CISSY MCILQUHAM
(PRESUMABLY SCOTTISH MOTHER). MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT GRADUATED
FROM THE PRESITIGIOUS AARHUS ACADEMY IN 1939, STUDIED LAW
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, RECEIVING HIS BASIC DEGREE
IN 1946, AND JOINED THE DANISH FOREIGN SERVICE THAT SAME
YEAR. FIRST FOREIGN POST WAS WASHINGTON 1949-52. IN 1949
HE MARRIED JYTTE JENSEN (BORN AUGUST 30, 1921 IN NAESTVED),
DAUGHTER OF A FLUTIST.

2. SUBSEQUENT CAREER AS FOLLOWS: CHIEF OF NATO AFFAIRS
SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY 1952-57; FIRST SECRETARY
IN ROME 1957-59; DEPUTY PERMREP AT DANISH MISSION TO UN
1959-63; OFFICE DIRECTOR IN FOREIGN MINISTRY 1963, MOVING
TO LEGAL DIVISION AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN 1967
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN 1970. THAT JOB WAS UP-GRADED
TO DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS IN 1971.

3. DURING THESE YEARS IN LEGAL DIVISION, MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT
SERVED AS DENMARK'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CASE AGAINST
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GREECE BEFORE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 1968-69,

ON SEVERAL DANISH DELEGATIONS TO UNGA, AND AS OFFICIAL
RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING DENMARK'S LAW OF THE SEA POSITION.

4. MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT (AS HE IS CALLED) IS NOT
PARTICULARLY OUTGOING OR AGGRESSIVE - HE HAS SOMETHING OF
A CLERKISH APPEARANCE - BUT HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND
COOPERATIVE IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY AND HAS SEEMED
TO ENJOY WORKING WITH AMERICANS. HE HAS BEEN REPUTED
FOR SOME YEARS TO BE ABOUT TO GET AN EMBSSY(WE HAVE
HEARD MURMURINGS ABOUT "ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID . . .") AND
HIS EXPECTATIONS WERE FINALLY REWARDED. HIS SPOUSE IS MORE
SPARKLING AND WILL PROBABLY THOROUGHLY ENJOY THE SOCIAL
ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THEIR NEW POSITION. BOTH OF THEM
SPEAK ENGLISH WELL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740187-0282
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740754/aaaabunm.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: DANISH AMBASSADOR WILLIAM MCILQUHAM SCHMIDT
TAGS: PINR, IT, DA, (SCHMIDT, WILLIAM MCILQUHAM)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005